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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS:PFOR, TGEN

SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR TECHNICAL EXPERTS WORKING GROUP

FOR RIO DE JANEIRO SCIATT

1.SUMMARY. THE DIRECTOR OF THE OAS OFFICE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DR. MARCELO ALONZO, WILL MAKE TWO TRIPS TO LATIN AMERICA IN JULY AND AUGUST TO SOUND OUT THE BRAZILIANS, VENEZUELANS AND MEXICANS ON CARRYING OUT THE OASGA RESOLUTION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THE DEPARTMENT GENERALLY SUPPORTS HIS VIEW THAT AT LEAST THREE MEETINGS OF SENIOR S&T OFFICIALS FROM OAS MEMBERS WILL BE REQUIRED THIS FALL AND IN EARLY 1977 IF THE RESULTS ARE TO BE MEANINGFUL. END SUMMARY

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2. THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING IN SANTIAGO ADOPTED

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A RESOLUTION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH CALLS FOR
ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS
"THAT WILL UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF A PROGRAM OF COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF THE CREATION, ADAPTATION AND TRANSFER
OF TECHNOLOGY". THE BROADLY WORDED RESOLUTION CALLS
UPON THE OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL TO CONVENE THE WORKING GROUP
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND TO INSTRUCT THE GENERAL SECRE-
TARIAT TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SERVICES. THE WORKING

GROUP'S REPORT IS TO BE PRESENTED TO GOVERNMENTS FOR CON-
SIDERATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE PERMANENT EXECUTIVE
COMMISSIONS OF THE CIES AND OF THE CIECC IN TIME FOR
THEM TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SPECIAL GENERAL
ASSEMBLY IN COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT TO BE HELD
IN EARLY 1977. - --

3. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DR. MARCELO ALONZO,
DIRECTOR OF THE OAS OFFICE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
TO ASCERTAIN HIS VIEWS ON HOW THE WORKING GROUP
SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND CARRY OUT ITS WORK. DR.
ALONZO TOLD US THE OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL WAS THE
CONVENING BODY OF THE TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS WORKING
GROUP. AS SUCH IT SHOULD ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR
THE GROUP FOR CARRYING OUT ITS TASK. HE EXPECTED THE
PERMANENT COUNCIL TO MEET ON THIS SUBJECT IN AUGUST.
FOR THE PERMANENT COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION HE PLANNED
TO URGE THE SECRETARIAT TO PROPOSE THREE MEETINGS,
THE FIRST AND LAST TO BE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE
SECOND IN WASHINGTON. HE AGREED WITH OUR SUGGESTION
THAT CARACAS MIGHT BE A LOGICAL CHOICE FOR THE FIRST
MEETING. HE INTENDED TO BROACH THAT IDEA IN CARACAS
DURING HIS VISIT THERE THE WEEK OF JULY 12. HE
FORESAW ORGANIZATIONAL PREPARATIONS BEGINNING IN
SEPTEMBER WITH THE FIRST MEETING IN OCTOBER AND THE
FINAL MEETING NEXT MARCH OR APRIL. THAT WOULD BE A
TIGHT, BUT FEASIBLE, SCHEDULE.

3. ALONZO INTERPRETS THE MANDATE OF THE WORKING GROUP
AS A BROAD AND FLEXIBLE ONE, BUT WITH A REQUIREMENT
TO RELATE ITS WORK TO THE SPECIFIC SUBJECTS MENTIONED
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IN THE RESOLUTION. IN GENERAL HE SAW THE WORKING
GROUP AS BOUND SOMEWHAT MORE TIGHTLY TO THE LANGUAGE
OF THE RESOLUTION THAN WE HAD BEEN THINKING. WE
WORKED TO PERSUADE HIM TO TAKE A BROADER VIEWPOINT.
HE FELT THE PERMANENT COUNCIL SHOULD TAKE UP SOME OF
THE POINTS IN THE RESOLUTION IN ISSUING A CLARIFYING
MANDATE TO THE WORKING GROUP.

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4. ON PARTICIPATION, HE IS SEEKING HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT POLICY MAKERS SUCH AS THE HEADS OF CONACYT IN MEXICO AND CONICIT IN VENEZUELA. SELECTION OF COUNTRY PARTICIPANTS WOULD ALSO BE AN ISSUE SINCE, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, A GROUP OF 24 COUNTRY PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE UNMANAGEABLE. OF COURSE ALL COUNTRIES WOULD BE ENTITLED TO HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT. PARTICIPATION WAS ANOTHER MATTER FOR THE COUNCIL TO RESOLVE.

5. IN GENERAL WE SUPPORT THE OAS RESOLUTION AND LOOK FORWARD TO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE WORKING GROUP. WE BELIEVE DR. ALONZO'S TENTATIVE PLANS ARE SOUND; CERTAINLY LESS THAN THREE MEETINGS COULD NOT ACHIEVE WORTHWHILE RESULTS. WE ALSO BELIEVE THE FIRST MEETING SHOULD BE HELD ASAP IN LATIN AMERICA IN ORDER TO ENSURE PARTICIPATION BY POLICY LEVEL S & T OFFICIALS.

ACTION REQUESTED: AT YOUR DISCRETION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSIES SOUNDING OUT LEADERS IN THE S&T FIELD AND HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE THEIR DEGREE OF INTEREST AND COMMITMENT TO THE EFFORT. WE EXPECT ALONZO'S TRIP TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE WORKING GROUP'S PREPARATIONS, BUT IN EMBASSIES' DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS, YOU SHOULD, OF COURSE, BE CAREFUL NOT TO APPEAR TO BE PROMOTING ALONZO'S POSITION. WE ALSO WOULD LIKE HOST GOVERNMENT VIEWS ON HOW THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD BE ORGANIZED. FYI: THE LEVEL OF USG PARTICIPATION WILL DEPEND TO A GREAT DEGREE ON THE LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION AND DEGREE OF INTEREST SHOWN BY THE LATINS. END FYI. KISSINGER

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